

Transition Stage 1

Question: (New as of May 15, 2006)

What launch dates are being made available through the cancellation line during the week of May 15th through May 19th, 2006?

Answer:

184 launch dates are being released through the Cancellation Line during the week of May 15th through May 19th, 2006. This release is the final part of Transition Stage 1. The launches include 19 standard sized (1-16 people) launches for calendar year 2006, 143 standard sized launches in the winters of 2007 through 2011, and 22 small sized (1 - 8 people) launches in May through August.

Available Launch Dates from Calendar Year 2006:

June 2006: 13, 14

July 2006: 5, 8, 21, 23, 29

Aug 2006: 2, 3, 6, 17, 22, 24, 26, 29

Oct 2006: 10, 28, 29, 31

Total Available Standard Sized Launches from Calendar Years 2007 through 2011:

Standard Sized Trips					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Jan	7	8	8	8	8
Feb	6	7	7	8	8
Nov	2	4	6	8	8
Dec	8	8	8	8	8

Total Available Small Sized Launches from Calendar Years 2007 through 2011:

Small (1-8 Person) Sized Trips					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
May					1
June			1	1	3
Jul			1	3	1
Aug	1	2	3	3	2

These dates are being released to waitlist members through the usual cancellation line process. The chart below shows when waitlist members are eligible to call in and claim one of these dates:

Those With Waitlist Numbers Between	Can Call-in and Claim Dates Starting:
05#00001 and 05#01500	Monday, May 15, 2006, 8am-noon and 1pm -5 pm
05#00001 and 05#03000	Tuesday, May 16, 2006, 8am-noon and 1pm-5pm
05#00001 and 05#04500	Wednesday, May 17, 2006, 8am-noon and 1pm-5pm
05#00001 and 05#06000	Thursday, May 18, 2006, 8am-noon and 1pm-5pm
Any waitlist number	Friday, May 19, 2006, 8am-noon and 1pm-5pm

The cancellation line phone number is (928) 638-7883. If you are interested, we encourage you to call our toll free number (800) 959-9164 on the preceding evening and select option 4 to hear what dates continue to remain available.

Question:

In transition stage 1, where are applicant's supposed to write the group size preference?

Answer:

You can write your group size preference to the right of each requested date, or you can download an updated version of the Launch Date Preference Form (LDPF) which prompts you for your group size preferences. It can be downloaded through the following link: [Launch Date Preference Form, Transition Stage 1](#)

Question:

What will the full launch schedule look like, and how many of those launches are being released through Transition Stage 1 and 2?

Answer:

The new system will allow up to 503 noncommercial trips to launch within a calendar year. One can view the overall launch pattern through the graph in the lower right hand corner of page 1 within the following link: [Key Changes](#). One can also view a sample chart showing total launches by date for each type of trip by clicking on the following link: [Sample Launch Calendar](#).

For calendar years 2007 through 2011, a total of 120 launches per year (600 over the 5 year period) are being released through transition stage 1, and another 120 launches per year (600 more launches over the same 5 year period) are being released through transition stage 2. All remaining noncommercial launches

(approximately 263 launches minus any trips already scheduled under the old system) will be released through the lottery.

Question:

Exactly what dates can I apply for in Transition Stage 1?

Answer:

You may apply for a launch on any date between 1/1/2007 and 12/31/2011. In transition stage 1 we will be scheduling 8 standard size launches per month throughout the five year time frame (allowing up to 2 standard sized launches per week). In addition, 3 extra standard sized launch dates will be scheduled each March and September, and 3 additional small (1 to 8 person) trips will be scheduled each month from April through August (allowing up to 1 of these extra launches per week). We do not list exact dates because almost all dates between 1/1/2007 and 12/31/2011 are open and currently booked dates could cancel (they are paying deposits at this time). We encourage you to list every date you are willing to accept. Please attach extra paper to your application as necessary.

Question:

In Transition Stage 1, how will the NPS ensure there are only 2 or 3 launches per week?

Answer:

The NPS will be processing these applications in order (waitlist order in stage 1, and combined wait order in stage 2). Once the allotted number of launch dates within any week have been awarded, all subsequent requests for launch dates within that week will be denied.

Question:

Are there any additional launch dates for this summer or fall which I can request through the LDPF?

Answer:

Yes. Recent cancellations have resulting in 7 additional launch dates for this summer which you can request through your LDPF. These additional dates are: 7/1/06, 7/21/06, 8/6/06, 8/24/06, 9/2/06, 9/16/06, and 9/29/06. They are listed on the revised, attached, LDPF. Please note, cancellations are continuing to occur; please continue to check our website to see what additional dates may be requested.

Question:

I already sent in my LDPF - do I have to fill in the updated form and submit it?

Answer:

No. The updated form was created to help you ensure your preferences in regard to group size will be clear to those who process your form. If you believe you were clear on your form, there is no need to send us an update.

Question:

I'm not sure I was clear enough on my form. What will your assumptions be in reading our requests?

Answer:

Unless otherwise stated by a requested date or on the form, the River Permits Office will assume you are requesting a standard sized launch (i.e. for 9 to 16

people). Here are some examples of how we would read your request. For instance if you wrote on your original LDPF:

5/16/2008 small or large

The River Office would read this left to right, checking first to see if a small size trip was available on 5/16. If the small size trip was not available, then they would check availability for a standard sized trip on the same date.

5/16/2008

The River Office only would check for availability for a standard sized trip on this date.

5/16/2008 small

The River Office would check for availability for a small sized trip on this date.

If on the application form the applicant only writes "standard or small sized trip launching on any date in 2007 through 2011

The River Office would start by checking January 1, 2007 and check availability for a standard size trip. If that didn't work, they would check availability for a small sized trip on the same date. If that didn't work they would repeat the process for January 2nd then 3rd etc.

Question:

I already sent in my LDPF -- can I use the attached form to revise my selections?

Answer:

Yes. We suggest writing on the top of your form "Revised on ____" and entering the current date. That way the River Permits Office can figure out which form to consult when scheduling. You may revise your selections multiple times through the above process. The most important part, however, is to make sure your revised LDPF makes it to the River Permits Office before the May 3rd deadline.

Question:

Before the new system is in place, can someone who is not yet 18 be a trip leader? Are waitlist members under age 18 able to participate In transition stage 1?

Answer:

Someone who is not yet 18 is not eligible to hold a permit either under the old system (see Noncommercial Regulations section III: "Trip Permittee and Qualified Boatman Experience") or under the new system. Thus, someone who will remain under age 18 through 2011 cannot benefit from Stage 1 of the transition. Since they are not eligible to get the permit in the first place, they cannot even play the trick of getting it then passing it on to an alternate who is of age.

Question:

Can multiple waitlist members in transition stage 1 list the same person or even each other as potential alternate trip leaders for their trips.

Answer:

Yes. The limitation of being listed only one time per year is solely for the lottery and transition stage 2. But choosing to do this may not be such a great idea; people can still only go a maximum of one time per year. So, if a person is listed

as an alternate for twenty trips that are all occurring in the same year, they still can only go on one. For the other 19 trips it will be just like they hadn't ever been listed, because those trips cannot be passed to them. However, since the 600 launch dates being released cover 5 different years, it may work to these people's advantage to list each other if the dates they request are for different years.

Question:

Can a person be listed only once on a LDPF in stage 1 of the transition, even though it is for a 5 year period?

Answer:

In stage 1 individual waitlist members are treated much like they have been treated in the past. They each put in individual applications and are able to list on their LDPFs whoever they want as potential alternate trip leaders, including other waitlist members and people not on the waitlist. Thus, #1 on the list can list #10 and #15 for example, and each of the others can do the same. In fact it would be permissible though extremely unlikely that the same person could be listed on every person's application as a potential alternate trip leader. Of course, like everyone else that person could only go on one trip per year and could not be passed additional trips within the same year as the alternate.

Question:

While I remain on the waitlist, can I still only participate in 1 noncommercial river trip?

Answer:

Yes. People on the waitlist must continue to follow the waitlist rules until they complete their transition to the new system or are awarded a launch date. One of those rules is the trip participant (TP) rule: any waitlist member who participates in more than 1 noncommercial trip (in Grand Canyon) during their time on the waitlist will be removed from the waitlist. So, even if you have been on the list 15 years, you will be removed from the list if you participate in more than 1 noncommercial river trip.

Question:

If I am successful in getting a trip in Stage 1 or Stage 2 of the transition, am I still bound by the TP rule?

Answer:

No. When you accept a trip through Stage 1 or Stage 2 of the transition, you have completed your transition to the new system. The old TP rule no longer applies; it is replaced with the new 1 trip per year rule.

Question:

In transition stage 1, who can I list on as a potential alternate trip leader on my Launch Date Preference form?

Answer:

The answer is different here than in transition stage 2 and the lottery. Here you can list anyone you want to list. They can be other people from the waitlist, people who are not on the waitlist, and people already listed on other applications. Be aware, however, that other rules still apply. Thus, anyone on your list who will remain under age 18 by the date of launch will be ineligible, and those who participate in any other noncommercial or commercial trip through

any part of the Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek section of the Colorado River earlier within the same year will be ineligible.

Question:

Can someone who is applying through transition stage 1 or 2 add to their list of potential alternate trip leaders at a later time, or must they list all of them when sending in their original application?

Answer:

The answer is consistent for all the scenarios: Transition Stage 1, Transition Stage 2, and the Lottery. All potential alternate trip leaders must be listed on the original request form before it is submitted and launch dates are awarded. This list cannot be added to at a later time.

Question:

I am a current waitlist member. In transition stage 1, if I am listed on someone else's application as one of their potential alternate trip leaders (PATLs) and they are successful in being awarded a launch, will I be removed from the waitlist?

Answer:

Similar to the alternate trip leader rules of the past, being listed as a PATL in transition stage 1 is not enough, by itself, to remove a waitlist member from the waitlist. In the above scenario the waitlist member would progress to transition stage 2.

Question:

In stage 1, when will successful applicants be notified that they got a permit?

Answer:

Applications are due May 3rd, and are placed in waitlist order as they arrive in the River Permits Office. Processing of those applications will begin over the weekend and continue through the week (extra NPS staff will be used to expedite the process and ensure accuracy). In addition to sending out written responses, our plan is to send out an email at the end of the week notifying both successful and unsuccessful applicants of the status of their applications.

Question:

For transition stage 1, when will the \$400 deposits be due (or \$200 if it is for a small group)?

Answer:

Successful applicants will receive with their notification a bill for the amount they owe. They will have 3 weeks to submit their payment.

Question:

When will the new trip lengths go into effect?

Answer:

The new trip lengths go into effect for all trips launching after calendar year 2006. In other words for trips launching in 2007 and later, the new trip lengths apply for trips already scheduled, trips released through the cancellation line, trips being released through transition stages 1 and 2, and trips released through the lottery.

Question:

If I am successful in getting a trip in transition stage 1, can I still invite whoever I wish to be participants on my trip? Can these people have been listed on other applications? Can these be people who were not on the waitlist?

Answer:

Within the maximum group size limits, you can invite anyone onto your trip who will not have been on any prior commercial or noncommercial trip through the Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek section of the river within the same calendar year. This can include people who were on the waitlist, people who were not on the waitlist, and people who are already planning to participate on other trips in other years.